

## Choosing a Pest Control Operator

Some rodent problems may be too extensive to control on your own and you may need to consider hiring a professional pest control service. When considering a professional pest control company for rodent control, be clear about what you want done and monitor their performance.

**Pest control professionals** can be found by looking in the phone book and online. Inquire about “integrated pest management” or “IPM” services. IPM methods often use less poison and employ other techniques to control pests. A pest control operator should inspect, monitor and make recommendations for excluding rodents. Interview companies and ask for references, including previous customers.

**Ask to see their license.** All pest control companies should be licensed and registered with the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA). Washington pesticide law requires most businesses that commercially apply pesticides to be licensed as a Commercial Applicator. Additionally, in King County, Public Health permits Structural Pest Control Operators.

- WSDA Pesticide Licensing and Structural Pest Inspector licenses are available for look up online at <http://agr.wa.gov/PESTFERT/LicensingEd/>
- If you want to check that the business that you hire is licensed by Public Health - Seattle & King County view the list online at [www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/pco.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/pco.aspx) or call 206-205-4394.

## How to Dispose of Dead Rats

- Wrap the dead rat in newspaper, or place in a plastic bag before putting in a tightly covered garbage can.
- Injured or sick rats **must be killed**, then wrapped and put in the garbage can.
- Do not touch dead rodents with bare hands.
- Use gloves if possible. If gloves are not available use the inside of a plastic bag or shovel.



### Effective Rodent Control

**For rodent traps and bait stations to be effective remove all food sources.**

- Don't leave pet food or bird seed outside.
- Don't put food scraps in open home compost bins. Use a covered bin such as a green cone.
- Secure all garbage in a can with a lid.
- Store pet food and other foods that may attract rats in rodent proof containers.

**Public Health**   
Seattle & King County

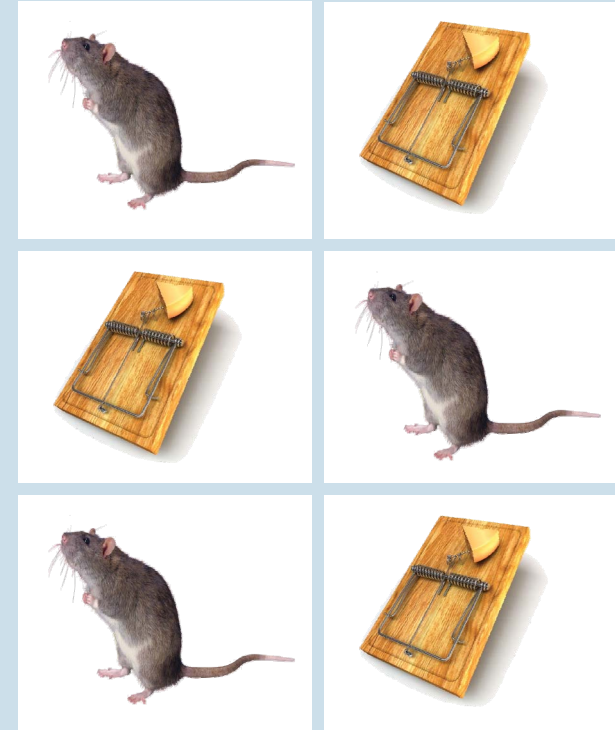
Environmental Health Services  
401 5th Ave, Suite 1100  
Seattle, WA 98104

206-205-4394  
[www.kingcounty.gov/health/rats](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/rats)

**Available in Alternate Formats**

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## RODENT CONTROL



**How to use  
rodent traps  
and bait stations**

# How to Use a Rat Trap

## BAIT IT!

To catch a rat use a rat trap. The best trap is the simple cheap wooden “snap trap”. They come in two sizes small for mice and large for rats. If you are trapping mice glue boards may also be effective.



## PLACE AND SET THE TRAP!

### What is the best kind of Bait?

**Mice** - Peanut butter, bread, raisins, bacon, strawberry jam.

**Roof rats** - Peanut butter, peanut butter mixed with raw oatmeal, fresh fruit, soft candies.

**Norway rats** - Bacon, meat scraps, fish.

**Attach the bait to the trap.** You may need to tie it to the trigger (use a piece of string or yarn) to prevent the rat from taking it. Don't put too much bait just use enough to attract the rodent.

**Pre-bait the trap.** Use an unset trap so that the rodent can become familiar with it and start feeding on the baited trap. Do this for two or three days and then set the trap.



## RAT TRAPS WORK!

Use several traps at once, the more the better!

- Put them in places where you have seen rats or mice or near holes where rats may enter the building.
- Place the end of the trap containing the trigger facing the wall or known rodent runway.
- Set the trigger of the trap. You may need to adjust the sensitivity of the trigger. To do this read the instructions on the package.
- Traps can also be attached to pipes or studs with wire, nails or screws. Drill a hole through the wood part of the trap to prevent splitting when nailing or screwing to a surface.
- Continue setting the traps until you stop catching rats.



**Make sure the trap is placed so that it is safe from children, pets or wild animals who could get hurt.**

# Using Bait Stations

**If you are using poison to control rodents you must follow the directions on the label.**

Poisons are not recommended for rat control inside buildings. Poisoned rats can die in hard to reach places and cause a bad smell.

**Always secure poison in bait stations so that it is not available to children, pets or wild animals.**

When placing bait stations outside, consider all areas where bait should be placed such as wood piles, storage sheds and fence rows. They should be placed about 50 feet apart around buildings or along landscaped areas surrounding buildings.

Secure poison bait blocks on rods inside of the bait box. This prevents rats from carrying bait outside the box and dropping the poison on the ground. Place the bait station so that it will not become disturbed and overturned.

